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EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is difficult to measure the good which an energetic campaign along any line of preventive medicine may accomplish. Once the public is aroused against the spread of tuberculosis or the eradication of plague, its interest does not stop here; to start the ball rolling is the hardest thing of all, but when it is fairly on its way it moves with a momentum all its own and the directing hand only is needed. This is particularly exemplified in the many calls which are being made upon the State Board of Health from every quarter. There is already a strong tendency to submit to expert opinion questions of sanitation as they affect the individual community. This must be a source of great satisfaction to Dr. Martin Regensburger, who has long been president of the board, and the late secretary, Dr. N. K. Foster, for they have labored indefatigably for this result.

A large number of the inquiries which are daily received pertain to the simplest matters and have emphasized the fact that the education of the public, not only in the necessity of sanitation, but in the principles of the science as well, is absolutely essential. This work the present secretary, Dr. William F. Snow, has launched and he has started at the very foundation. A large part of his time is now being spent in first interesting the teachers in our public schools, and, secondly, in their instruction in the elements of the subject. From the public schools the campaign will be carried to municipal bodies, large corporations, chambers of com-

merce and all those factors which are potent in shaping the public destiny. The way has been prepared for such work and the time is now ripe for its accomplishment. In the past boards of health have been compelled to act largely as censors, pointing out mistakes to the public after they had been committed; this position has not assisted in increasing their popularity. There is no doubt that a great number of these mistakes have arisen from ignorance and their cure is to be found in a better conception of the principles of sanitation. When town governments come to a full understanding of these principles, when corporations learn that their fulfillment is an economic investment, when boards of trade realize that the health of their community is their best card, we can expect results which will be little short of marvelous. In this work the State Board expects the help of every physician; a strong, active support, not a passive sympathy. It is often the case that the individual physician does not realize what a power he can exert in his own community and his influence is never greater than when it concerns questions of the public health.

For a good many years the State Society, either directly or through its members of the Board of Examiners, has published an annual directory of physicians. Before the fire the Society had a regular advertising agent who was paid a commission on the advertisements secured for the Register, the Society receiving all returns from advertising and paying all expenses of publication. In 1906, after the fire, everything was at sixes and sevens; the advertising agent, Mr. Henry Kaplan, suggested that he be allowed to publish the Register, get all he could out of the advertising, supply a copy to each member of the Society and release the Society from all financial responsibility. That proposition was accepted; it was again renewed in 1907, a regular contract being drawn between the Society and Mr. Kaplan, which was renewed in 1908 and again in 1909. Early in 1909 Mr. Kaplan requested permission to publish the Register and directory as a part of a quarterly medical journal. This was not approved by the Council and again not approved by the House of Delegates at the last annual meeting. In spite of this denial, Mr. Kaplan did just as he chose and used the quasi endorsement secured by publishing the Register as a part of the "Practitioners' Digest," to boost into circulation a medical journal owned exclusively by himself. The resulting tangle has been referred to the attorney for the Society. Please understand clearly that there is absolutely no connection between the State Society and Mr. Kaplan, nor the "Kaplan Medical Publishing Co.," which is the same thing. Hereafter the Society will, as formerly, issue its own Register and directory and each member will receive a copy next year as in previous years.

Parenthood and Race Culture. By C. W. Saleeby, M. D. Publishers, Moffat, Yard & Co., New York.

To what extent the physician should be interested and study those subjects which are but indirectly a part of his "private practise" is a question which must be determined by himself. We admit that his work is primarily to care for the sick when afflicted with some dread disease; secondarily, he studies hygiene and it would seem that upon this branch the physician of the next generation will place more dependence.

Associated with hygiene and but a step from it is "eugenics," which is the science of race culture, and the first attempts to define its general principles as a whole has been issued in "Parenthood and Race Culture," by Dr. Caleb W. Saleeby (London, 1909). He starts with the basic assumption that "there is no wealth but life" and upon these words of Ruskin develops his subject, emphasizing the importance of heredity and education, the part played by alcohol and tobacco in the production of physical unfitness, and dwelling especially on the possibility of selection through marriage. He would not have us think that the eugenicist is only concerned in the production of the physical fit, and in the chapter on "The Selection of the Mind" lays stress on the fact that the mind has been the principal means of changing our relative position to our simian forebears.

"Physical eugenics can by no means be ignored; but . . . the physical is of worth only in so far as it serves the psychical and is worse than worthless in so far as it does not." He quotes freely from the words of Francis Galton, who has written so extensively on the subject and gives in detail the books which can be used by those desirous of extending their knowledge. To review a book of this character as it should be done demands an acquaintance with everything it dwells upon, which I do not possess and which ignorance I, no doubt, share with the majority of the profession. However, now that the several states have taken legal action toward the regulation of marriage by forbidding alliances among the criminals, paupers and feeble-minded, and as in Indiana provision is made for the sterilization of its confirmed criminals, imbeciles and rapists, it would seem that the time has come for every physician to study carefully this new science, and as guardians of the public health to spread, as we best of all professions can do, that knowledge which will lend to prolong life and increase human endeavor.

To those of the profession who have but a materialist view of their work the book will not appeal as it has nothing for them, yet, everyone who feels that the limit of human perfection has still to be reached will be deeply interested in its pages and who, with Dr. Saleeby, believe that "there are many events in the womb of time which will be delivered, and the fairest of her sons and daughters are yet to be."

G. H. R.

A Text Book of Surgery. George Emerson Brewer, M. D. Lea & Febiger, New York and Philadelphia.

This volume is a fair example of publishers' not infrequent attempts to foster upon unsuspecting students a mass of old material in patched attire. Too much has been added to our knowledge since the first edition of this work to justify the mere adding of a few plates or an occasional page, and we are prone to attribute to the undue haste of incompetent collaborators this second edition.

D. T.

APPEAL TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF THE WEST AND SOUTH.

Up to the present time there has not been a concerted effort made to collect and preserve historical data in regard to the origin, evolution and personnel of our profession in this part of our country. The result of this delinquency has been the total loss of much material that should have been preserved, especially pertaining to medical schools and societies, and biographical matter in connection with the practitioners and teachers of medicine of by-gone days. A good deal of material of this character is still obtainable if a systematic effort is made to locate and preserve it. It is in the possession of individuals, families and private libraries and will eventually be lost. The Western Association for the Preservation of Medical Records was organized in May, 1909, for the purpose of collecting the historical and biographical records of the profession of the West and South. We wish to preserve anything and everything pertaining to western medicine and medical men and are anxious to enlist the active help and support of every member of the profession who is in sympathy with our aims. We want every one to become associated and identified with the work of our association. There are no fees or obligations of any kind. We have made arrangements with the Lloyd Library, Cincinnati, O., for the proper housing of the material collected. The latter will be systematically arranged, catalogued and properly preserved, so that it can be made available for research work. We are particularly anxious to obtain:

1. Medical Journals published in the West and South prior to 1880;
2. Medical books and pamphlets written or published in the West;
3. Manuscripts and autographs of early physicians;
4. Old diplomas and other documents of a medical character;
5. Proceedings of medical societies;
6. Reports of hospitals and other medical institutions;
7. Catalogues and announcements of western and southern medical colleges of all "schools";
8. Biographies and portraits of western physicians;
9. Information and material of any kind pertaining to medicine and medical men and affairs in the West and South.
10. Curios of a medico-historical character.

All contributions should be sent in care of the librarian. In view of the fact that we are performing a labor of love and have no funds, our friends will readily understand why all contributions sent by express or freight should be prepaid, so that no expense may accrue to the association. The necessary expenses of the association are at present being met by voluntary contributions of its organizers.

May we not count upon your active help and support? We would like to hear from every member of the profession who is interested in the proposed work.

A. G. DRURY, M. D., Librarian,
710 W. Eighth St., Cincinnati, O.

C. A. L. REED, M. D., Chairman.

OTTO JUETTNER, M. D., Secretary.

RESIGNED.

Spurgeon, Franklin, Chico.

DEATHS.

Jones, M. S., Santa Ana; Younger, Alex. J., of San Francisco, died at Sydney, N. S. W., in Sydney Hospital, 1907; Harkness, Geo. S., Stockton, Cal.; Gilreath, M. A., Selma, Cal.